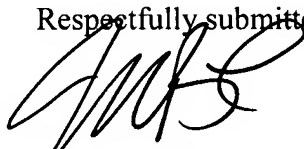


III. PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicant petitions for an extension of time of three months to and including January 30, 2006 in view of the Saturday, Sunday, Holiday rule, in which to respond to the Office Action dated July 29, 2005. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, a check in the appropriate amount is enclosed, which is the process fee for a three-month extension of time. If the check is inadvertently omitted, or should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/CHEP:004US.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and an early indication to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3035 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 25, 2006